Aboriginal Relations

BUSINESS PLAN 2008-11

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The business plan for the three years commencing April 1, 2008 was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as of March 18, 2008 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in preparing the business plan.

The Ministry's priorities outlined in the business plan were developed in the context of the government's business and fiscal plans. I am committed to achieving the planned results laid out in this business plan.

Gene Zwozdesky, *Minister of Aboriginal Relations*
April 4, 2008

THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations consists of the following divisions: First Nations and Métis Relations, Consultation and Land Claims, and Policy and Planning. The Ministry supports two important Métis institutions: The Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, a quasi-judicial body established by the *Métis Settlements Act*, which works to resolve disputes pertaining to land, membership and surface rights; and the Métis Settlements Ombudsman's Office, which investigates complaints regarding the administration of Settlement affairs. A shared service agreement with International and Intergovernmental Relations is in place for the provision of corporate services to Aboriginal Relations.

VISION

Strong and vibrant Aboriginal communities and people, fully participating in the opportunities of a prosperous and diverse Alberta.

MISSION

Lead the development of government-wide strategies and policies to enhance capacity and well-being of Aboriginal people, by building respectful relationships, collaborating and partnering with other ministries, Aboriginal governments and organizations, industry, other levels of government, and various stakeholders.

LINK TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

The Ministry supports goal nine of the 2008-11 Government of Alberta Business Plan – Alberta will have strong and effective municipalities and self-reliant Aboriginal communities. This goal is supported through consultation with Aboriginal people, governance initiatives and economic development strategies.

Government of Alberta Priority
Aboriginal Relations works on the government priority to *promote strong and vibrant communities.*

SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- The conclusion of new long-term governance and funding arrangements with the Métis Settlements will provide opportunities to enhance sustainability and self-reliance.
- As First Nations/Provincial relations continue to grow, opportunities arise to work together to achieve mutual goals and interests. The maintenance of effective relationships with First Nations will continue to be an important focus for the Ministry, particularly through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Alberta Treaty Grand Chiefs.
- Government, First Nations and industry will need to clearly establish the responsibilities of all parties in implementing the Alberta First Nation consultation policy. Ministry-specific operational guidelines will be critical to overall land and resource management.
- There is an opportunity to further the development of strategic partnerships between First Nations, Métis, industry and governments to enhance First Nation and Métis participation in the economy. Innovative approaches will be required to enhance governance, build capacity, establish appropriate regulatory frameworks and develop the labour force.
- The development of policies and guidelines to address court decisions regarding the Aboriginal rights of Métis people will require strategies respecting their rights, the views of First Nations, and the interests of industry, Albertans and other stakeholders.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2008-11

Through the Minister's mandate letter and the Ministry's review of environmental factors, the strategic priorities described below have been identified. These are in addition to the important ongoing core activities of the Ministry.

BUILDING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

1. Métis Settlements **Linkage: Goals 1 and 2**	Conclude the new long-term governance and funding arrangement with and for the Métis Settlements that is focused on effective governance, enhanced accountability and sustainability.
2. First Nations Relationships **Linkage: Goal 1**	Formalize relationships between the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Treaty Grand Chiefs (Treaty 6, 7 and 8) through a Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Consultation **Linkage: Goal 2**	Continue to implement the Aboriginal consultation strategy. This will require implementation of Alberta's consultation policy and guidelines, continued support for traditional use studies and the development of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Alberta Treaty Grand Chiefs.
4. Aboriginal Self-Sufficiency **Linkage: Goals 1 and 2**	Coordinate discussions and initiatives with First Nations, provincial Métis organizations, industry, Alberta ministries and, where appropriate, the federal government to improve overall outcomes for Aboriginal people, including their participation in the economy and economic development in Aboriginal communities.

CORE BUSINESSES, GOALS, STRATEGIES & PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Core Business One: First Nations and Métis Relations

GOAL ONE 1 Build capacity for economic participation, self-reliance and effective governance within Aboriginal governments and organizations

What it means The Ministry provides advice and specialized knowledge to Aboriginal communities, organizations, provincial departments, federal and municipal governments and industry to support the well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal people. Support is provided through participation in cross-ministry strategies affecting Aboriginal people, industry partnerships, urban Aboriginal initiatives, relationship building with Aboriginal governments and organizations, governance initiatives and capacity building.

Strategies

1.1 Lead the development of provincial strategies to guide Alberta's long-term future relationship with the Métis Settlements to enhance governance and self-reliance.

1.2 Lead the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize government to government relationships with Alberta Treaty Grand Chiefs.

1.3 Support the development of strategic partnerships among industry, post-secondary education and training institutions and Aboriginal groups to enhance Aboriginal participation in the labour force and economic development.

1.4 Support inclusion of the needs of First Nation and Métis governments and organizations in the development and implementation of provincial social policies and initiatives, especially for Aboriginal women, children and youth.

1.5 Lead the participation of Alberta ministries in discussions on self-governance, as requested by First Nations and the federal government.

1.6 Work with Alberta ministries, federal and municipal governments, friendship centres and other Aboriginal organizations to support urban Aboriginal initiatives.

1.7 Work with the Métis Nation of Alberta Association and other Alberta ministries to achieve a renewed *Alberta/Métis Nation of Alberta Association Framework Agreement.*

1.8 Support economic, social and community development projects through the First Nations Development Fund.

1.9 Work with the federal government, other provinces, territories, and Aboriginal governments and organizations, to develop national and regional strategies to address Aboriginal issues.

Performance Measures	Last Actual (2006-07)	Target 2008-09	Target 2009-10	Target 2010-11
1.a Economic Partnerships: Number of First Nations negotiating strategic economic partnerships with industry and other organizations	17	18	22	26

Core Business Two: Consultation and Land Claims

GOAL TWO 2

Lead Alberta's Aboriginal consultation strategy and facilitate the resolution of land issues

What it means The Ministry has identified several strategic priorities related to Aboriginal governance and consultation. These include implementation of consultation policy guidelines, continued support for the development of traditional use studies to support consultation, and the establishment of regulatory frameworks on reserves to encourage economic growth.

Strategies

2.1 Work with Alberta ministries, the federal government and First Nations toward timely resolution of land-related negotiations, including treaty land entitlement claims for which Alberta has an obligation under the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement*.

2.2 Coordinate participation of Alberta ministries with First Nations and industry in the implementation of Alberta's consultation policy.

2.3 Work with First Nations on the development of traditional use data and protocols used for land management and resource development consultations.

2.4 Lead Alberta's participation in discussions with First Nations and the federal government, as requested, on the establishment of mechanisms for the removal of barriers to economic activity on First Nations reserves.

2.5 Work with Alberta ministries, the Métis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association to clarify Alberta's responsibilities with respect to consultation with Métis people.

Performance Measures	Last Actual (2006-07)	Target 2008-09	Target 2009-10	Target 2010-11
2.a Land Claims and Related Agreements: Progress on the negotiation and implementation of land claims and related agreements[1]				
• Number of final agreements	6	3	3	3
• Number of fully implemented agreements	11	15	17	19
2.b Data Sharing Protocols: Number of collaborative traditional use data sharing protocols negotiated with First Nation communities[2]	30	35	n/a	n/a
2.c Contacts for Consultation: Number of First Nations with a single point of contact for consultation	35	37	39	41

Notes:

1. The Ministry coordinates Alberta's participation in the negotiation of land claims and related agreements between the Government of Canada and First Nations and ensures that the obligations of the province are fulfilled. The figures for performance measure 2.a indicate the status of the negotiations at the end of the fiscal year. For example, if a final agreement is fully implemented during the year, it is counted as a fully implemented agreement and no longer counted as a final agreement.
2. Performance measure 2.b will discontinue after 2008-09 – the final year of the program funding. Therefore, targets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are not applicable (n/a).

EXPENSE BY CORE BUSINESS
(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable					
	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2007-08 Forecast	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Target	2010-11 Target
First Nations and Métis Relations	43,499	64,923	80,940	102,044	109,303	113,542
Consultation and Land Claims	12,151	14,509	14,517	14,959	11,826	11,961
MINISTRY EXPENSE	55,650	79,432	95,457	117,003	121,129	125,503

MINISTRY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable					
	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2007-08 Forecast	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Target	2010-11 Target
REVENUE						
Internal Government Transfers	14,220	40,200	56,200	78,200	86,200	91,200
Other Revenue	437	-	21	-	-	-
MINISTRY REVENUE	14,657	40,200	56,221	78,200	86,200	91,200
EXPENSE						
Program						
Ministry Support Services	2,671	2,369	2,394	3,366	3,449	3,525
First Nations and Métis Relations	11,237	21,262	21,262	19,550	18,683	17,848
Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,040	1,034	1,034	1,075	1,099	1,122
First Nations Development Fund	14,220	40,000	56,000	78,000	86,000	91,000
Métis Settlements Governance	4,086	-	-	-	-	-
Consultation and Land Claims	11,261	13,719	13,719	13,837	10,676	10,786
Policy and Planning	1,130	1,048	1,048	1,175	1,222	1,222
Métis Settlements Legislation	10,000	-	-	-	-	-
Valuation Adjustments and Other Provisions	5	-	-	-	-	-
MINISTRY EXPENSE	55,650	79,432	95,457	117,003	121,129	125,503
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET OPERATING RESULT	(40,993)	(39,232)	(39,236)	(38,803)	(34,929)	(34,303)

CONSOLIDATED NET OPERATING RESULT
(thousands of dollars)

	Comparable					
	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Budget	2007-08 Forecast	2008-09 Estimate	2009-10 Target	2010-11 Target
Ministry Revenue	14,657	40,200	56,221	78,200	86,200	91,200
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	(14,220)	(40,200)	(56,200)	(78,200)	(86,200)	(91,200)
Consolidated Revenue	437	-	21	-	-	-
Ministry Expense	55,650	79,432	95,457	117,003	121,129	125,503
Inter-ministry consolidation adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Expense	**55,650**	**79,432**	**95,457**	**117,003**	**121,129**	**125,503**
Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSOLIDATED NET OPERATING RESULT	(55,213)	(79,432)	(95,436)	(117,003)	(121,129)	(125,503)